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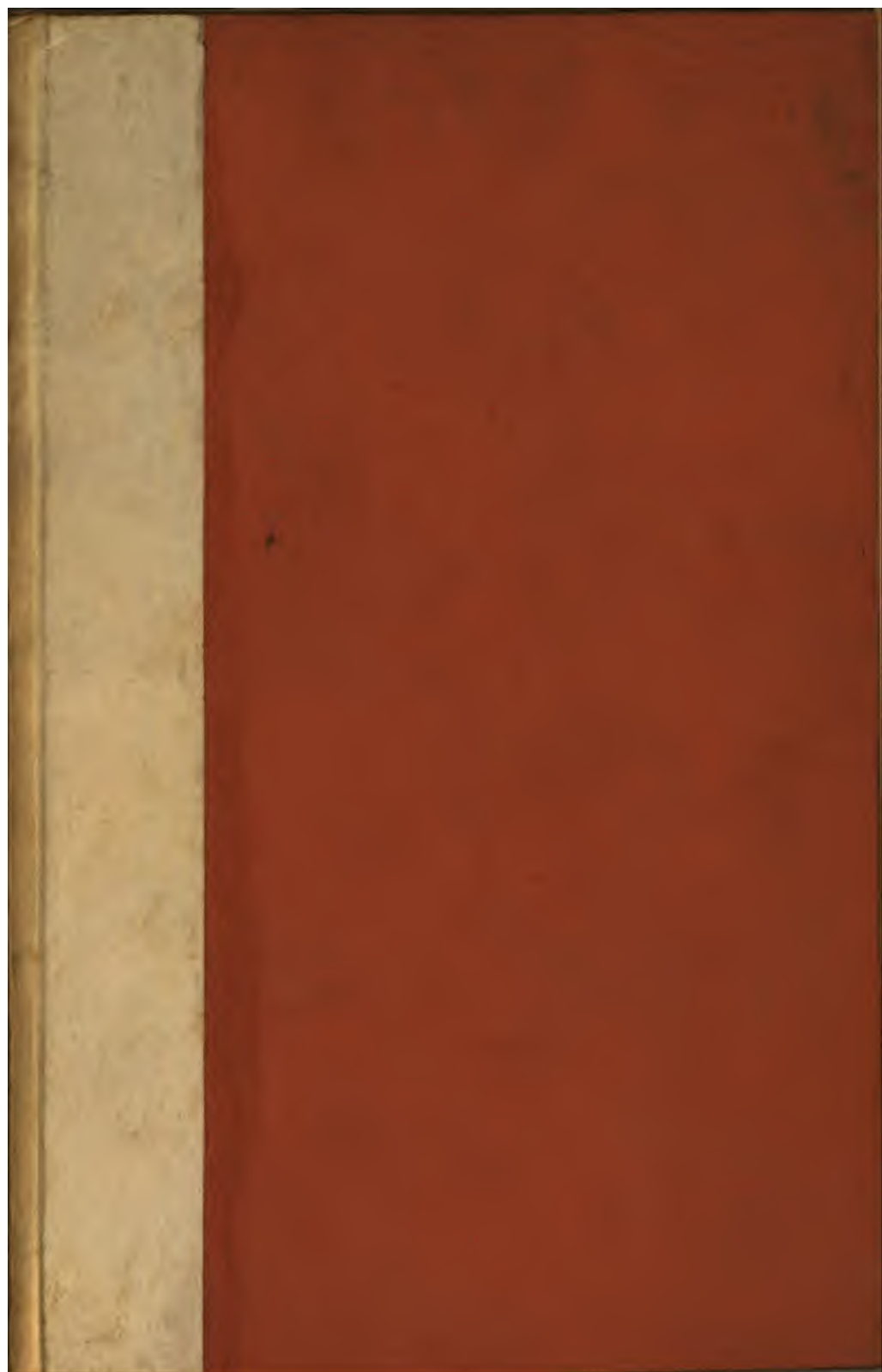
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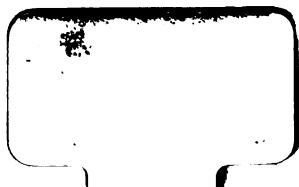
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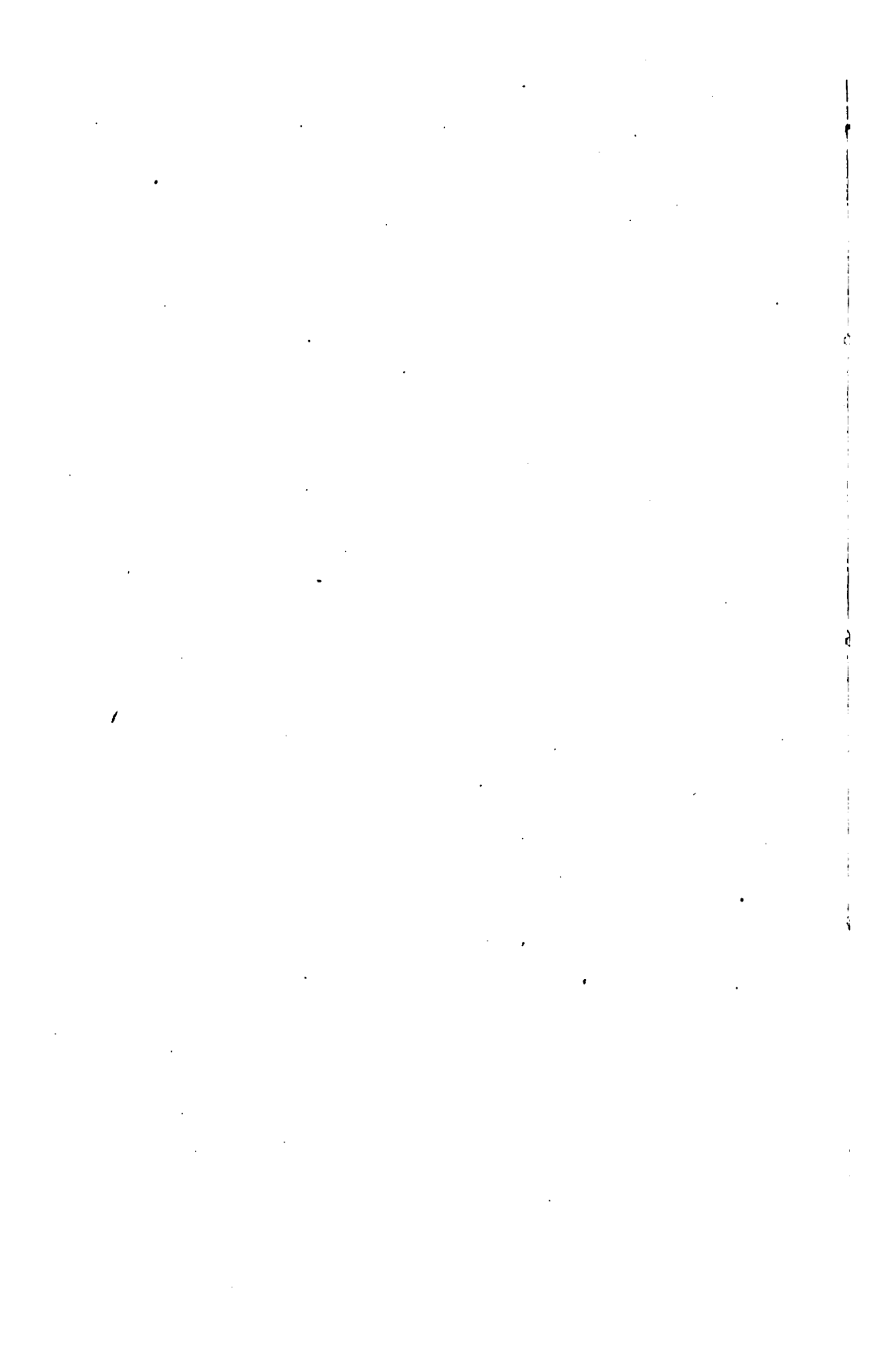
A LIST
OF THE
BIRDS
OF
THE BANBURY DISTRICT.

BY
F. C. APLIN, B.C.L.,
REV. B. D'O. APLIN, B.A.,
AND
OLIVER V. APLIN.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE BANBURYSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

BANBURY:
JOHN POTTS, 51, PARSON'S STREET.
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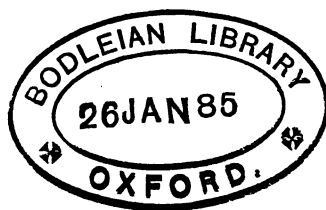
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P R E F A C E.

THE authors having for some years been engaged in collecting information as to the Birds of the neighbourhood of Banbury, the following list has been prepared at the instance of the Banburyshire Natural History Society and forms the first of their publications. It seems necessary to explain the limits of the district to which it relates, and the nature of the localities it includes. For the purposes of this list the district includes a circular tract of country having the town of Banbury, situate in the valley of the river Cherwell, on the north-east boundary of the county of Oxford, for its centre, and having a radius of about six miles; but this limit has not been strictly adhered to in treating of the rarer visitors.

This district consists for the most part of land in a high state of cultivation, small fields with thick hedgerows, fairly well timbered; but although it lacks the wild and distinctive characters of some, in the eyes of the ornithologist, more favoured localities, it embraces several features of interest, such as Tadmarton and Wigginton Heaths, the home of the Stonechat, Whinchat, Grasshopper warbler, and Sand martin, the valley of the Cherwell with its numerous tributaries to which this list is indebted for many interesting wading and aquatic birds, and Clattercutt reservoir, the only place, as far as we know, where the Great Crested Grebe breeds.

With regard to the plan of the list, no system of classification has been thought necessary, that being beyond the scope of such a work. The species are arranged in the order followed by Professor Newton in his (the 4th) edition of "Yarrell's British Birds," as far as it goes, and subsequently in that of Mr. J. E. Harting in his "Handbook of British Birds." The generic and specific names have been taken from the latest and best authors.

The authors desire to express their thanks to those who have assisted them with notes, and in particular to Mr. T. Beesley, F.C.S., who has lent for the use of this work an annotated copy of a List of the Vertebrate Animals of the neighbourhood of Banbury, published in 1840 in the "History of Banbury," Mr. C. M. Prior, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, who recorded for some time from the neighbourhood, and to whom they are indebted for many valuable notes, Mr. Hugh Holbech, of Farnborough Hall, and Mr. W. Wyatt, the able and obliging taxidermist of Banbury who has lost no opportunity of submitting rare and interesting birds for their inspection.

THIS LIST IS PUBLISHED BY THE
BANBURYSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
BUT THE AUTHORS ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TEXT.

BIRDS

OF

THE BANBURY DISTRICT.

1.—FALCO PEREGRINUS. *Tunstall.* Peregrine Falcon.

An occasional visitor in autumn and winter, chiefly young birds on the autumn migration. We know of four occurrences within the last three years.

2.—FALCO SUBBUTEO. *Linn.* Hobby.

A rare summer visitor. In the *Zoologist* for 1881, p. 493, we have recorded eggs of this bird in our collection taken at Claydon in 1876, and a young bird taken from a nest in some high trees at Huscot Mill in the summer of 1879, and which we had in our possession for nearly a year and a half. Mr. H. Holbech informs us that a pair were observed in Mollington Wood in the spring of 1880.

3.—FALCO ÆSALON. *Tunstall.* Merlin.

A rare autumn and winter visitor; one or more are however procured every season. We have in our possession a young bird killed at Overthorpe on the 18th October, 1879, and an adult male in fine plumage, killed at Gaydon, Warwickshire, in the autumn of 1880,

4. *TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS*. (*Gmel.*) Kestrel.

Common and resident, but not so frequently seen in winter as in summer.

5.—*ASTUR PALUMBARIUS*. (*Linn.*) Goshawk.

Mr. Prior, in an account of the birds of North Oxon, published in a local paper a few years ago, says :—" I have in my possession a fine male Goshawk, shot near Wroxtton." In a letter to us he remarks that Oxfordshire Goshawks are very large female Sparrow hawks, and with this opinion we must agree.

6.—*ACCIPITER NISUS*. (*Linn.*) Sparrow Hawk.

Resident and fairly common, but not so much so as the Kestrel.

7.—*MILVUS ICTINUS*. *Savigny*. Kite.

In the " History of Banbury " list this bird is mentioned as " Rare, much more common a few years ago." It is now quite extinct, and we have no recent occurrence on record.

8.—*BUTEO VULGARIS*. *Leach*. Common Buzzard.

One was shot at Edgcote a few years ago. It is included in the " History of Banbury " list as " rare " on the authority of Mr. Jessop.

9.—*CIRCUS CYANEUS*. (*Linn.*) Hen Harrier.

This species is included in the " History of Banbury " list. We have no recent record of its occurrence.

10.—*SYRNIUM ALCO*. (*Linn.*) Tawny Owl.

Resident and common, especially in thick fir plantations.

11.—*ASIO OTUS*. (*Linn.*) Long-eared Owl.

Resident. Mr. Prior informs us that it bred in a small covert near Deddington. It is more common in autumn and winter.

12.—*ASIO ACCIPITRINUS*. (*Pall.*) Short-eared Owl.

An autumn and winter migrant. We have observed them while waiting for ducks in the valley of the Cherwell coursing over the meadows in the twilight, and have put up as many as three together from rough grass in a marshy meadow while snipe shooting. This species is not strictly nocturnal.

13.—*STRIX FLAMMEA*. *Linn.* Barn Owl.

Resident and common. Notwithstanding all that has been written on the subject we believe that this bird *does* hoot as well as screech, but while the hoot of the Tawny Owl may be syllabled "ho - - - oo - oo - oo" the cry of the Barn Owl is more accurately represented by "ho-o-o-o-o-o," the first short sharp "hoot" being wanting.

14.—*LANIUS EXCUBITOR*. *Linn.* Great Grey Shrike.

A rare winter visitor. About twelve years ago two were killed in March at Hook Norton. One was shot at Hempton in 1844. In 1879 two were procured near Banbury. We examined one of these, in the stomach was the remains of a shrew; this bird is now in our collection.

15.—*LANIUS COLLURIO*. *Linn.* Red-backed Shrike.

A rare summer visitor. We have a pair of birds and also the eggs in our collection from the district. In 1879 a pair nested near the brickyard on Constitution Hill, and we have heard of a few other instances, but the bird is seldom met with.

[*LANIUS AURICULATUS*. (*Müll.*) Woodchat Shrike. This species is included in the "History of Banbury" List on the authority of Mr. Loftus, with the remark "Not found now." It is doubtful whether it ever occurred.]

16.—*MUSCICAPA GRISOLA*. *Linn.* Spotted Flycatcher.

A summer migrant and common.

17.—*ORIOLOUS GALBULA*. *Linn.* Golden Oriole.

We believe an example of this species was procured at Whichford. Early in May, 1880, as we have recorded in the *Zoologist* for that year, p. 259, two male birds were shot in a wood at Great Tew and brought to Mr. Wyatt. The man who shot them said they were *carrying grasses up into a tree and hanging them over the branches*. It is probable that the hen birds were there also but were not noticed from their comparatively sombre plumage. Possibly they intended nesting. These are now in our collection.

18.—*CINCLUS AQUATICUS*. *Bechst.* Dipper.

A specimen is recorded from Claydon in 1874, having flown against the telegraph wires. In the *Zoologist* for 1882, p 150, we have recorded a nest of the bird together with the eggs and old birds in the possession of Mr. M. George Hitchcox, of this town. The nest was found near Claydon, built in the stump of an old thorn bush on the banks of the river,

19.—*TURDUS VISCIVORUS*. *Linn.* Misseltoe Thrush.

Resident and common; more numerous in early autumn when migrants appear in small flocks, which are often mistaken for early Fieldfares. We have seen this bird in the breeding season drive off both the Rook and the Brown Owl.

20.—*TURDUS MUSICUS*. *Linn.* Song Thrush.

Resident and common. More numerous during the autumn migration when they stay for a short time, frequenting gardens and feeding on the yew berries.

21.—*TURDUS ILIACUS*. *Linn.* Redwing.

A winter migrant arriving often in large numbers. Being more insectivorous than the next mentioned species, they suffer more from a severe frost.

22.—*TURDUS PILARIS*. *Linn.* Fieldfare.

A winter migrant; in some years they appear in very large flocks, in others we get but few. They arrive about the second or third week in October, and have been known to stay as late as the middle of May. In 1880 we saw a small party on the 9th of that month.

23.—*TURDUS MERULA*. *Linn.* Blackbird.

Resident and common.

24.—*TURDUS TORQUATUS*. *Linn.* Ring Ouzel.

A rare visitor, generally in spring. An immature bird was shot a few years ago near this town. We have in our collection a fine male example killed at Epwell on the 26th April, 1880.

25.—*ACCENTOR MODULARIS*. (*Linn.*) Hedge Sparrow.

Resident and common.

26.—*ERITHACUS RUBECULA*. (*Linn.*) Redbreast.

Resident and common.

27.—*DAULIAS LUSCINIA*. (*Linn.*) Nightingale.

A summer visitor. Formerly common but less so of late years.

28.—*RUTICILLA PHŒNICURUS*. (*Linn.*) Redstart.

A summer migrant and fairly common. Nests frequently in the dry stone walls.

29.—*PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA*. (*Linn.*) Stonechat.

This species must be called a resident, inasmuch as it is sometimes met with in winter. The greater part, however, are migratory. We have found it common on Tadmarton Heath and have noted it on some scrubby ground near Brailes, and, exceptionally, in one or two other localities, but have found it very locally distributed and far from common generally.

30.—*PRATINCOLA RUBETRA*. (*Linn.*) Whinchat.

A summer migrant. We have had the eggs from the Railway banks and Tadmarton Heath. Although generally distributed it is nowhere plentiful; perhaps more so at the last-named place than anywhere else. It is submitted that many reported Stonechats are referable to this species.

31.—*SAXICOLA CENANTHE*. (*Linn.*) Wheatear.

A spring and autumn visitor, generally in March and September, but very far from common.

32.—*ACROCEPHALUS STREPERUS*. (*Vieill.*) Reed Warbler.

A summer migrant. We have only once taken the eggs ourselves in the district, and must regard it as by no means common.

33.—*ACROCEPHALUS SCHŒNOBŒNUS*. (*Linn.*) Sedge Warbler.

A summer migrant, and by no means confined to reeds and osier beds.

34.—*LOCUSTELLA NŒVIA*. (*Bodd.*) Grasshopper Warbler.

We have met with this species on Tadmarton Heath, and in August, 1880, procured an immature bird there. We have also observed it in one or two other localities in thick bramble-covered hedges. It must be regarded as rare.

35.—*SYLVIA RUF A*. (*Bodd.*) Greater Whitethroat.

A summer migrant and common.

36.—*SYLVIA CURRUCA*. (*Linn.*) Lesser Whitethroat.

A summer migrant. We have met with this bird not uncommonly, and find one or more nests every year.

37.—*SYLVIA SALICARIA*. (*Linn.*) Garden Warbler.

A summer migrant; fairly common, but rarely seen unless looked for. It generally makes itself known by its sweet rich song.

38.—*SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA*. (*Linn.*) Blackcap.

A summer migrant and common. In early autumn it frequents gardens for the sake of feeding on the fruit.

39.—*PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX*. (*Bechst.*) Wood Wren.

A summer migrant. This species we have found but very rarely. We have observed it on Bloxham Grove, and Mr. Beesley has given us an egg taken near Banbury many years ago. Mr. Prior informs us that he considers it very rare.

40.—*PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS*. (*Linn.*) Willow Wren.

A summer migrant and common.

41.—*PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA*. (*Vieill.*) Chiffchaff.

A summer migrant and common. We have recorded in the *Zoologist* for 1882, p. 114, an instance of this bird staying at Bodicote during the mild winter of 1881-2.

42.—*REGULUS CRISTATUS*. *Koch.* Golden-crested Wren.

Resident and common. We have observed this bird in small flocks in autumn and winter.

43.—*REGULUS IGNICAPILLUS*. (*Brehm.*) Fire-crested Wren.

In the *Zoologist* for 1882, p. 234, we have recorded a male specimen of this very beautiful species killed near Banbury in the winter of 1881-2. The bird is now in our collection.

44.—*TROGLODYTES PARVULUS*. *Koch.* Wren.

Resident and common.

45.—*CERTHIA FAMILIARIS*. *Linn.* Tree Creeper.

Resident. This species, from its quiet and unobtrusive habits, is but little observed during the breeding season. In winter it is frequently to be seen, and sometimes half a dozen may be met with together, in company with the Titmouse family. We have observed their partiality to orchard trees.

46.—*SITTA CAESIA*. *Welf.* Nuthatch.

Resident and common, but seldom seen in summer, except in localities where old timber abounds. In early autumn they commonly frequent gardens in small parties of half-a-dozen or so.

47.—*PARUS MAJOR*. *Linn.* Great Titmouse.

Resident and common. Its familiar and pleasing spring note is always welcome.

48.—*PARUS CAERULEUS*. *Linn.* Blue Titmouse.

Resident and common.

49.—*PARUS ATER*. *Linn.* Coal Titmouse.

Resident and fairly common—though much less so than the last-mentioned species.

50.—*PARUS PALUSTRIS*. *Linn.* Marsh Titmouse.

Resident, and occurs in about the same numbers as the last-mentioned species.

51.—*ACREDULA CAUDATA*. (*Linn.*) Long-tailed Titmouse.

Resident. In autumn and winter we have often observed this species in flocks—sometimes a hundred or more together.

[*PANURUS BIARMICUS*. (*Linn.*) Bearded Titmouse.

This species is included in the "History of Banbury" List on the authority of Mr. Loftus. It is very unlikely to have occurred.]

52.—*AMPELIS GARRULUS*. *Linn.* Waxwing.

A specimen of this bird is recorded as having been killed at Helmdon,

53.—*MOTACILLA LUGUBRIS*. *Temm.* Pied Wagtail.

Resident, much less common in winter than summer.

54.—*MOTACILLA SULPHUREA*. *Bechst.* Grey Wagtail.

An autumn and winter migrant, and not uncommon at that season along some of our streams. In the *Zoologist* for 1879, p. 179, Mr. Prior records an instance of their breeding in an osier bed at South Newington.

55.—*MOTACILLA RAIL*. (*Bp.*) Yellow Wagtail.

A summer migrant and common. Conspicuous on the fallows on its arrival in spring. Before leaving us in autumn they may be observed in the meadows in flocks.

56.—*ANTHUS TRIVIALIS*. (*Linn.*) Tree Pipit.

A summer migrant and fairly common.

57.—*ANTHUS PRATENSIS*. (*Linn.*) Meadow Pipit.

Resident. We have observed that this is the only small bird ordinarily met with whilst Snipe shooting in the low lying marshy meadows—where it may be seen commonly in flocks.

58.—*ALAUDA ARVENSIS*. *Linn.* Sky Lark.

Resident and common, but in winter their numbers are considerably augmented by immigrants.

59.—*ALAUDA ARBOREA*. *Linn.* Wood Lark.

We believe this bird to be found rarely in the district, but have ourselves never met with it.

60.—*PLECTROPHANES NIVALIS*. (*Linn.*) Snow Bunting.

We have in our collection a mature male specimen killed at Aston-le-Walls early in January, 1879. Mr. Prior informs us that on the 8th of December, 1878, he observed a specimen in a stubble field at Bloxham in company with some Chaffinches.

61.—*EMBERIZA SCHÖENICLUS*. *Linn.* Reed Bunting.

Resident and common. In winter frequenting the streams in small parties.

62.—*EMBERIZA MILIARIA*. *Linn.* Bunting.

Resident, but more numerous in winter.

63.—*EMBERIZA CITRINELLA*. *Linn.* Yellow Bunting.

Resident and common.

64.—*EMBERIZA CIRLUS*. *Linn.* Cirl Bunting.

Mr. Prior informs us that he has twice taken the nest of this species, once at Bloxham, and again at Milcombe.

65.—*FRINGILLA CŒLEBS*. *Linn.* Chaffinch.

Resident and one of our most common birds.

66.—*FRINGILLA MONTIFRINGILLA*. *Linn.* Brambling.

An irregular and uncommon winter visitor, in some seasons, however, they appear in considerable numbers.

67.—*PASSER MONTANUS*. (*Linn.*) Tree Sparrow.

Resident and common. Mr. Prior, who has paid great attention to this species, informs us that he has frequently found it breeding under old Magpie's nests.

68.—*PASSER DOMESTICUS*. (*Linn.*) House Sparrow.

Resident and common.

69.—*COCCOTHAUSTES VULGARIS*. *Pall.* Hawfinch.

Resident. This fine species is on the increase. Until the last few years we only knew of one well-authenticated instance of its breeding, viz., at Calthorpe, many years ago, although we had it reported to us as nesting in 1878 at Bodicote, near where we have ourselves several times observed the birds. We have now, however, satisfactory evidence of its having nested at Broughton for the last two or three years at least, and it will in all probability be found to do so in other localities. In some winters (notably that of 1880-81, when many were picked up dead during the severe frost), it is met with in some numbers: these must be regarded as immigrants.

70.—*LIGURINUS CHLORIS*. (*Linn.*) Greenfinch.

Resident and common. Flocks in autumn with Yellow Ammers and Linnets in the stubbles.

71.—*CARDUELIS ELEGANS*. *Steph.* Goldfinch.

Resident. Now becoming scarce in the breeding season, but much more numerous in winter, when it may occasionally be met with in small flocks.

72.—*CHRYSOMITRIS SPINUS*. (*Linn.*) Siskin.

A winter migrant but not common. Small parties may be sometimes observed feeding in the tops of alder trees, to the seeds of which they are particularly partial. In 1879 we observed eight or nine in some larches at Bodicote on 20th April. This is a very late date for their stay.

73.—*LINOTA RUFESCENS*. (*Vieill.*) Lesser Redpoll.

A winter migrant, more numerous than the last-mentioned species. Its habits are very similar, and they are frequently observed in company.

74.—*LINOTA CANNABINA*. (*Linn.*) Linnet.

Resident and common, particularly so on Tadmarton Heath.

75.—*LINOTA FLAVIROSTRIS*. (*Linn.*) Twite.

This species is recorded in the "History of Banbury" List, but we have not ourselves met with it.

76.—*PYRRHULA EUROPEA*. *Vieill.* Bullfinch.

Resident and common.

77.—*LOXIA CURVIROSTRA*. *Linn.* Crossbill.

An irregular winter visitor, generally in small flocks. It is by no means of frequent occurrence.

78.—*STURNUS VULGARIS*. *Linn.* Starling.

Resident and common. Very large migratory flocks occur in autumn and winter.

79.—PYRRHOCORAX ALPINUS. *Koch.* Alpine Chough.

Early in April, 1881, a Chough was killed in Broughton Park, which we examined in the flesh; it proved to be a female in good condition, and showed no signs of confinement, its plumage being clean and unrubbed. The stomach contained remains of numerous coleopterous insects and one caterpillar. We originally recorded the bird [*Z.* 1881, p. 242] as an immature specimen of *P. graculus* (Linn.), but after a careful examination of specimens in the Oxford Museum, and comparison with the plates in Mr. Dresser's "Birds of Europe," we have no hesitation in referring it to the above species.

80.—CORVUS CORAX. *Linn.* Raven.

This species is recorded in the "History of Banbury" List, but it is now extinct.

81.—CORVUS CORONE. *Linn.* Black Crow.

Resident and common. We believe that these birds migrate southwards in severe weather.

82.—CORVUS CORNIX. *Linn.* Grey Crow.

An autumn and winter visitor, but by no means common.

83.—CORVUS FRUGILEGUS. *Linn.* Rook.

Resident and common.

84.—CORVUS MONEDULA. *Linn.* Jackdaw.

Resident and common.

85.—PICA RUSTICA. (*Scop.*) Magpie.

Resident. This bird has been aptly described by Mr. Prior as "the ornithological pride of the district." It is no unusual thing to see ten or a dozen together, and on 24th December, 1881, we observed no less than twenty-six fly out of one row of trees in a hedgerow. In the *Zoologist* ss., p. 4879, as noted in Professor Newton's edition of Yarrell's "British Birds," Mr. Prior records having observed thirty-four in a stubble field in November, 1875. Tadmarton Heath may be noticed as a locality in which we have observed this species to be particularly abundant.

86.—*GARRULUS GLANDARIUS*. (*Linn.*) Jay.

Resident. This species breeds in the more wooded parts of the district, but it is much more generally distributed during the autumn and winter months.

87.—*HIRUNDO RUSTICA*. (*Linn.*) Swallow.

A summer visitor and common.

88.—*CHELIDON URBICA*. (*Linn.*) Martin.

A summer visitor and common.

89.—*COTILE RIPARIA*. (*Linn.*) Sand Martin.

A summer visitor. We know of breeding colonies in a sand pit at Tadmarton Heath, and at Aynho.

90.—*CYPSELUS APUS*. (*Linn.*) Swift.

A summer migrant and common.

91.—*CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEUS*. *Linn.* Nightjar.

A summer migrant, but not at all common.

92.—*CUCULUS CANORUS*. *Linn.* Cuckoo.

A summer migrant and common.

93.—*UPUPA EOPS*. *Linn.* Hoopoe.

A specimen of this bird occurred at Claydon in 1864, and another was shot in a turnip field at Cropredy Lawn some years ago.

94.—*CORACIAS GARRULUS*. *Linn.* Roller.

One of these birds was taken at Balscott in 1869.

95.—*ALCEDO ISPIDA*. *Linn.* Kingfisher.

Resident, still not uncommon, but becoming more scarce.

96.—*GECCINUS VIRIDIS*. (*Linn.*) Green Woodpecker.

Resident, and not uncommon in the more wooded parts of the district. It is more frequently noticed during the autumn months, when it is more generally distributed, and its numbers may perhaps be increased by immigrants.

97.—*DENDROCOPUS MAJOR*. (*Linn.*) Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

Resident. This species is most frequently met with in the Parks at Broughton, Wroxton, and Farnborough, where there is an abundance of old timber. It certainly breeds in the last-mentioned locality; Mr. H. Holbech informs us that in June, 1882, he captured a young bird, hardly able to fly, in Mollington Wood, and we have every reason to believe that it also nests in the other localities named.

98.—*DENDROCOPUS MINOR*. (*Linn.*) Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Resident, more common than the last-mentioned species, and more generally distributed, but met with in similar localities. We have in our collection an immature specimen killed in some kidney bean sticks in a garden at Bodicote in June, 1880.

[*DENDROCOPUS VILLOSUS*. (*Linn.*) Hairy Woodpecker.

In the *Zoologist* for 1882, p. 69, we have recorded the supposed occurrence of this species, between Hook Norton and Chipping Norton, five or six years ago. It must remain doubtful whether the skin, which is in our possession, was that of the identical specimen killed there or not.]

99.—*YNX TORQUILLA*. *Linn.* Wryneck.

A summer migrant, not common.

100.—*COLUMBA PALUMBUS*. *Linn.* Ring Dove.

Resident and common. In winter we are visited by large flocks, which are probably for the most part immigrants.

101.—*COLUMBA ŒNAS*. *Linn.* Stock Dove.

Resident, but we believe it migrates southwards in winter, especially in the more severe seasons. It breeds frequently in pollard willows, and is most abundant in the well-wooded parks in the district.

[*COLUMBA LIVIA*. *Bonnat*. Rock Dove.

This species is recorded in the "History of Banbury" List as an "occasional visitor," on the authority of Mr. Busby. Keepers frequently speak of a small blue dove which they call the "Rockier," but they probably confuse the Stock Dove with the present species, and to this bird the above note probably applies.]

102.—*TURTUR COMMUNIS*. *Selby*. Turtle Dove.

A Summer migrant and common. It has nested for several years in the top of a large old ivy-clad Weymouth Pine in our garden in the middle of the Village of Bodicote. On the 30th of September, 1879, we observed (as recorded in the *Field*) a pair in a stubble field near Adderbury; this is a very late date.

103.—*PHASIANUS COLCHICUS*. *Linn.* Pheasant.

Resident, and common where strictly preserved. It is well known that this species has interbred largely with *P. torquatus*; a variety with a more or less perfect white ring round the neck is most commonly met with.

104.—*PERDIX CINEREA*. (*Lath.*) Partridge.

Resident, and everywhere abundant in this highly-cultivated district. We have in our collection an egg of this species taken from a nest containing others of a normal colouring, which is of a pale blue tint, somewhat similar to the colour of a Redstart's eggs.

105.—*CACCABIS RUFA*. (*Linn.*) Red-legged Partridge.

Now resident and becoming common. A few years ago it was deemed a rarity. We have observed the partiality of this species for breeding on an elevated situation, we know of two instances of its nesting on a straw rick.

106.—*COTURNIX COMMUNIS*. *Bonnat*. Quail.

A summer migrant, but far from common. We have eggs from Bloxham, and Mr. Prior informs us that he has eggs taken at Tadmarton.

107.—*TURNIX SYLVATICA*. (*Desf.*) Andalusian Hemipode.

This bird, an inhabitant of Southern Europe and Northern Africa, has only been met with three times in England, once in Yorkshire and twice in Oxfordshire. The Oxfordshire birds were both killed near Chipping Norton, about 13 miles from Banbury, the first on 29th October, 1844, as recorded by Mr. Goatley (*Ann. Nat. Hist. and Zoologist*, 1845, p. 872), and the second shortly afterwards, recorded by the same gentleman and the Messrs. Matthew (*Zoologist*, 1849, p. 2599.)

- 108.—*EDICNEMUS CREPITANS*. *Temm.* Great Plover.

A specimen was shot at Great Bourton in May, 1871, and is now in our collection.

- 109.—*CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS*. *Linn.* Golden Plover.

Large flocks are sometimes seen in winter; rarely in the meadows, more generally flying over; specimens are not unfrequently obtained.

- 110.—*VANELLUS CRISTATUS*. *Meyer.* Lapwing.

Resident and common, nesting on the fallows and in rough meadows. In autumn they collect in flocks, their numbers being considerably augmented by immigrants. During very severe weather they leave us entirely.

- 111.—*ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA*. (*Linn.*) Ringed Plover.

Mr. Prior records a specimen killed near the canal some few years back.

- 112.—*STREPSILAS INTERPRES*. (*Linn.*) Turnstone.

Two specimens have been procured near Banbury, one in 1860, the other in 1874.

- 113.—*HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS*. (*Linn.*) Oyster-catcher.

One was shot near Bourton in September, 1852, and another at Croughton in 1864.

- 114.—*TOTANUS GLOTTIS* (*Pall.*) Greenshank.

Mr. Prior has recorded the occurrence of two or three specimens near Banbury.

- 115.—*TOTANUS CALIDRIS*. (*Linn.*) Redshank.

Specimens have been procured at Helmdon and on the River Oherwell some years ago.

- 116.—*TOTANUS OCHROPUS*. (*Linn.*) Green Sandpiper.

An occasional visitor in autumn and early winter. It is found along the streams sometimes as early as the middle of August.

[TOTANUS GLAREOLA. (*Linn.*) Wood Sandpiper.

In the "History of Banbury" List this bird is included as "an occasional visitant." It is submitted that in this case there must have been an error in the identification of the species. As the Green Sandpiper is not mentioned it is probable that the two species were confused.]

117.—TOTANUS HYPOLEUCUS. (*Linn.*) Common Sandpiper.

A regular spring and early autumn visitor in small numbers, staying but a short time.

118.—TRINGA ALPINA. *Linn.* Dunlin.

This species is recorded from Wickham (in 1872) and Sibford.

119.—TRINGA MINUTA. *Leish.* Little Stint.

This species is recorded in the "History of Banbury" List on the authority of Mr. Godfrey.

120.—PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS. (*Linn.*) Grey Phalarope.

Specimens have been procured at Bloxham and South Newington; a fine one was shot on the Cherwell at Franklin's Knob in the winter of 1876.

121.—SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA. *Linn.* Woodcock.

An autumn and winter migrant, never plentiful and exceedingly local and uncertain in its distribution.

122.—GALLINAGO MAJOR. (*Gmel.*) Great Snipe.

This species is recorded from Warkworth more than 20 years ago.

123.—GALLINAGO MEDIA. *Leach.* Common Snipe.

An autumn and winter migrant. The first flight is sometimes early in September. They appear to be constantly on the move; their numbers and stay depend on the state of the meadows, being most abundant when a flood has just gone off. We have observed them in every month of the year except May and June.

124.—GALLINAGO GALLINULA. (*Linn.*) Jack Snipe.

An autumn and winter visitor, never very plentiful and seldom arriving before the second week in October. In 1879 (as recorded in the *Field*) we procured a specimen on the 21th of September.

125.—LIMOSA LAPPONICA. (*Linn.*) Bar-tailed Godwit.

Mr. Prior says, "Sometimes heard flying over in flocks at night, and three specimens have been shot."

126.—NUMENIUS ARQUATA. (*Linn.*) Common Curlew.

Specimens have been procured at Adderbury, Aynho, and Deddington. We have an example shot from a party of five near Williamscothe a few years ago.

127.—NUMENIUS PHŒOPUS. (*Linn.*) Whimbrel.

Several specimens of this bird have been shot, generally in spring.

128.—ARDEA CINEREA. *Linn.* Common Heron.

This fine bird may often be met with in the meadows at all times of the year. During the winter months they are always to be seen, often several together..

129.—NYCTICORAX GRISEUS. (*Linn.*) Night Heron.

Recorded in the "History of Banbury" List as "Rare."

130.—BOTAURUS STELLARIS. (*Linn.*) Common Bittern.

Specimens are on record from the Cherwell (in 1860) and from Cropredy. Mr. Holbech has in his possession a fine bird killed at Farnborough some years ago, and we have been informed of two or three other occurrences within the last 20 years.

131.—ARDETTA MINUTA. (*Linn.*) Little Bittern.

A specimen was procured on the Cherwell, near Banbury, on the 27th October, 1857, and is still in existence.

132.—*RALLUS AQUATICUS*. *Linn.* Water Rail.

This bird is no doubt a resident, but it is seldom seen except during a hard frost. We have never found the nest.

133.—*CREX PRATENSIS*. *Bechst.* Land Rail.

A summer migrant and common. Instances of its occurrence during the winter months are on record.

134.—*PORZANA PARVA*. (*Scop.*) Little Crake.

An example was shot at Cropredy.

135.—*PORZANA MARUETTA*. (*Leach.*) Spotted Crake.

A spring and autumn visitor ; not very uncommon in autumn. In September, 1879, we examined an immature specimen procured on the Cherwell, near Hardwick, where it was believed the species may have nested. We think it possible that this bird may occasionally breed here.

136.—*GALLINULA CHLOROPUS*. (*Linn.*) Moorhen.

Resident and common.

137.—*FULICA ATRA*. *Linn.* Coot.

Resident. Very numerous on Clattercutt Reservoir, where we have observed as many as thirty adult birds on the open water at once. In autumn and winter it is rather more generally dispersed, and may then be met with on the brooks and rivers, where it *may possibly* breed. It also breeds on the pools at Farnborough.

138.—*CYGNUS* ——— *SP.* Swan.

Swans have been several times observed flying over. These may have been *C. musicus* (*Bech.*) or *C. bewicki* (*Yarri*), or, of course, possibly only *C. olor* (*Gmel.*).

139.—*ANSER CINEREUS*. *Meyer.* Grey Lag Goose.

Recorded in the "History of Banbury" List as "Migratory."

140.—*ANSER SEGETUM*. (*Gmel.*) Bean Goose.

Recorded in the "History of Banbury" List as "Migratory." Small flocks of grey wild Geese are at times put up from the stubbles and young wheat, and they are not very uncommonly seen on the floods and flying over. Although it is impossible to say with any certainty, it is probable that they belong to this species.

141.—*ANSER BERNICLA*. (*Linn.*) Brent Goose.

One of these birds is reported from Overthorpe a few years ago. Another was shot at Warkworth in February, 1871, as we are informed by Mr. Wyatt.

142.—*ANSER CANADENSIS*. (*Linn.*) Canada Goose.

An example of this fine species was shot on the Cherwell near Banbury a few years ago.

143.—*TADORNA CORNUTA*. (*Gmel.*) Sheldrake.

One of these birds was recorded in the local paper as having been shot at Hook Norton in the winter of 1880.

144.—*ANAS BOSCHAS*. *Linn.* Wild Duck.

Resident, breeding in some numbers on one or two of the larger pieces of water in the district; a pair may also be found here and there along the river and streams. Always more numerous during the winter months, and in some seasons very large numbers visit the water meadows.

145.—*SPATULA CLYPEATA*. (*Linn.*) Shoveller.

A male bird was shot some sixteen years ago at Aynho, and in December, 1881, a female was procured at the same place.

146.—*MARECA PENELOPE*. (*Linn.*) Wigeon.

A winter visitor. In some seasons very large flocks visit us, in others very few come. They do not arrive until late in the season, and we have seen them in some numbers as late as the first week in March.

147.—*QUERQUEDULA CRECCA*. (*Linn.*) Teal.

A winter visitor; never very plentiful, but haunting the secluded streams singly or in pairs all the season. We have occasionally seen as many as eight or ten together. They arrive early in October and stay until March.

148.—*QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA*. (*Linn.*) Gargany.

One of these beautiful little ducks is on record as having been procured at Byfield. We remember seeing two specimens a few years ago which had been procured in the neighbourhood, but we cannot recall the locality, neither can the stuffer who preserved them.

149.—*FULIGULA FERINA*. (*Linn.*) Pochard.

A winter visitor, but very far from common. We have recorded in the *Zoologist*, 1882, p. 74, the curious capture of one of these birds in December, 1881, which dashed itself through a skylight in Banbury.

150.—*FULIGULA MARILA*. (*Linn.*) Scaup.

One of these ducks was shot on the Canal some few years ago.

151.—*FULIGULA CRISTATA*. (*Leach.*) Tufted Duck.

An example was procured at Aynho some years ago. In December, 1878, a fine male bird was captured on Clattercutt Reservoir, and is now in our collection.

152.—*CLANGULA GLAUCION*. (*Linn.*) Golden Eye.

Several of these birds have been shot at different times during the winter season. A female, procured near Cropredy, 18th January, 1881, is now in our collection.

153.—*MERGUS SERRATOR*. *Linn.* Red-breasted Merganser.

Mr. Prior has recorded a specimen of this bird shot by a man living at Byfield.

154.—*MERGUS MERGANSER*. *Linn.* Goosander.

Several of these birds have been procured. It has occurred at Byfield, Adderbury, and Edgcote, [1876-77]. A fine adult male in our collection was shot on Wormleighton Reservoir some four or five years ago.

155.—*COLYMBUS GLACIALIS*. *Linn.* Great Northern Diver.

An example was shot on one of the ponds at Wroxton Abbey some years ago.

156.—*COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS*. *Linn.* Red-throated Diver.

Mr. Wyatt informs us that he had a specimen of this diver from Over Worton a few years ago.

157.—*COLYMBUS ARCTICUS*. *Linn.* Black-throated Diver.

Mr. Wyatt informs us that specimens of this bird have been obtained at Fenny Compton in January, 1877, and at Clattercutt.

158.—*PODICEPS CRISTATUS*. (*Linn.*) Great Crested Grebe.

To Mr. Hugh Holbech we are indebted for the discovery of a present breeding haunt of this species. He informs us that in July, 1880, he saw an old bird accompanied by three young on Clattercutt Reservoir. In August, 1882, we accompanied him to the spot and observed two pairs of old, and four young birds, two of which were only half grown, and were still with the old birds. A specimen was procured at Grimsbury in 1862. Another, a male in probably its second year, was captured alive in a field at Prior's Marston in September, 1881. We have heard of one or two other instances of its occurrence.

159.—*PODICEPS GRISEIGENA*. (*Bodd.*) Red Necked Grebe.

Mr. Prior has recorded a specimen shot on the canal feeder. It is included in the "History of Banbury" List, on the authority of Mr. Abbott, as "an occasional visitant, very rare."

160.—*PODICEPS AURITUS*. (*Linn.*) Eared Grebe.

Mr. Prior records this species as having been procured on the River Cherwell. Mr. Wyatt informs us that a specimen was procured at Clattercutt twenty years ago by Mr. Judge—this *may* possibly have been *P. cristatus*.

161.—*PODICEPS FLUVIATILIS*. (*Tunstall.*) Little Grebe.

Resident, and fairly common on the River, Canal, and larger pieces of water. They are fond of haunting the mouths of the larger overgrown ditches running into the streams.

162.—FRATERCULA ARCTICA. (*Linn.*) Puffin.

A specimen of this eminently coast bird was shot at Culworth some years ago.

163.—ALCA TORDA. *Linn.* Razor-bill.

At the beginning of the frost in December, 1878, we examined an example of this bird captured at Clattercutt Reservoir. It is now in the possession of a gentleman at Bodicote.

164.—LOMVIA TROILE. (*Linn.*) Guillemot.

Mr. Spiers, of Banbury, has in his possession a specimen which was caught a few years ago on a night line set in the river near Aynho.

165.—PHALACROCORAX CARBO. (*Linn.*) Cormorant.

A fine specimen, weighing 6½ lbs., was shot on Clattercutt Reservoir in November, 1879. We have heard of another in the district, but cannot learn the locality.

166.—PHALACROCORAX GRACULUS. (*Linn.*) Shag.

In December, 1880, we examined a specimen which had been shot while sitting on the ridge of a barn roof at Souldern (vide *Zoologist*, 1881, p. 211). It has been noticed that when this and the last mentioned species come inland they are generally observed to alight on elevated positions, such as church steeples, tall chimneys, and the like. Early in the present autumn (1882) a large bird was one day observed sitting on the weather vane of the Parish Church in Banbury. Harvest time (as noticed by Dr. Plot, *Nat. Hist. Oxon*) is the time in which "the cormorant has been observed to come hither," and although we were not fortunate enough to see it ourselves, nor are we aware of anyone having identified it, we cannot help thinking that the bird seen was a Shag or Cormorant.

167.—SULA BASSANA. (*Linn.*) Gannet.

We believe that several Gannets have been shot in the district, but have not been able to obtain satisfactory information respecting them all. Many years ago the old Thenford carrier had one alive which he used to exhibit in Banbury on Market days. We have been informed of a specimen in immature plumage shot by the River Cherwell near Banbury in 1877.

- 168.—*STERNA FLUVIATILIS*. *Naum.* Common Tern.

This bird occurs not very uncommonly, generally in spring.

- 169.—*STERNA MACRURA*. *Naum.* Arctic Tern.

We have seen one or two of these Terns which had been procured in the neighbourhood of Banbury.

- 170.—*HYDROCHELIDON NIGRA*. (*Linn.*) Black Tern.

Mr. Prior records one "shot in the winter of 1869 on some floods." We have seen an example which Mr. Wyatt informs us was shot at Hempton.

- 171.—*LARUS RIDIBUNDUS*. *Linn.* Black-headed Gull.

This species is occasionally procured here. We have examined several specimens within the last two or three years.

- 172.—*LARUS CANUS*. *Linn.* Common Gull.

Not an uncommon visitor, generally in the winter and early spring months. We have, however, observed it in May.

- 173.—*LARUS ARGENTATUS*. *Gmel.* Herring Gull.

Mr. Prior records one of these fine Gulls shot at Swerford in 1876, and Mr. Wyatt tells us he has had one or two others sent in from this District.

- 174.—*LARUS FUSCUS*. *Linn.* Lesser Black-backed Gull.

This and the last-mentioned species are included in the "History of Banbury" List as occasional visitors on the authority of Mr. Abbot. A specimen was procured on the River Cherwell near Banbury, some years ago, and in September, 1882, we examined a nearly adult bird shot at Farthinghoe.

- 175.—*RISSA TRIDACTYLA*. (*Linn.*) Kittiwake.

Occasionally procured during the winter season, but not so frequently as the other smaller Gulls.

- 176.—*STERCORARIUS CATARRHACTES*. *Linn.* Common Skua.

In the *Zoologist* for 1879, p. 490, we have recorded a specimen procured at Eydon in October of that year.

- 177.—*STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS*. (*Banks.*) Richardson's Skua.

An example in our collection was shot at Milcombe on the 15th of October, 1879 (vide *Zoologist*, 1879, p. 490.) This specimen and that of the Common Skua mentioned above were doubtless stragglers from the ranks of the hosts of Skuas which arrived on our coasts during the great immigration of the autumn of 1879.

- 178.—*PUFFINUS ANGLORUM*. (*Temm.*) Manx Shearwater.

Mr. Goatley, of Chipping Norton, captured one of these birds alive in September, 1839 (vide *Zoologist*, 1839, p. 2625). Mr. Prior has recorded a specimen in his possession taken alive at Chipping Norton in the winter of 1872-3; also two other occurrences, one at Chacombe, the other at Wroxton (vide *Zoologist*, 1879, p. 457).

- 179.—*PROCELLARIA PELAGICA*. *Linn.* Stormy Petrel.

Mr. Wyatt tells us that he has twice had specimens of this little sea-loving bird, both many years ago. One of them was procured at Upton.

- 180.—*PROCELLARIA LEUCORRHOA*. *Vieill.* Leach's Petrel.

Early in December, 1881, we examined a specimen of this bird which had been picked up at Lower Heyford a few days before. Many of these birds visited the English coasts about that time, our bird was probably blown inland by the storm at the end of November. In *Loudon's Mag. Nat. Hist.*, p. 282-283, a specimen is recorded as procured at Chipping Norton.

ADDENDA.

79.—It should be stated that there is no previous record of this species in Great Britain, and that with regard to the specimen procured at Broughton, it is the opinion of several ornithologists that it was an escaped bird.

124.—As an earlier arrival of the Jack Snipe than that recorded in the body of the list, it may be mentioned that an example was brought to us on the 15th September, 1882, which had been shot on the Cherwell, opposite Bodicote.

128.—Mr. H. Holbech was informed by one of the woodmen that some years ago a pair of Herons built their nest in Mollington Wood ; unfortunately the tree they selected was cut down.

130.—Mr. Beesley has kindly furnished us with some extracts from his note books relating to rare birds procured in the district. From one of these it appears that a Bittern was shot at Clattercutt about 17th December, 1847.

157.—The Black-throated Diver procured at Clattercutt was shot on January 31, 1849, and was immature (Mr. Beesley).

167.—“A flock of Gannets passed over the town—one found next morning.”—*Banbury Guardian*, 25th February, 1845 (Mr. Beesley).



